



Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratories

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Hepatitis C Virus RNA, Quantitative (HCV Viral Load)

Description	<p>Ordered after Hepatitis C status confirmed and used for monitoring chronic disease</p> <p>The quantitative range of this assay is 1.08-8.0 log IU/mL (12-100,000,000 IU/mL) with limit of detection (LOD) at 12 IU/mL (1.08 log IU/mL).</p>
CPT	87522
Pre-Approval Required	Documentation of positive Hepatitis C screen is required. Prior approval is also required by eConsult.
Supplemental Information and Required Form(s)	<p>Los Angeles County PHL Test Request Form http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lab/labforms.htm</p> <p>eConsult approval print out must accompany test request form (DHS and associated clinics only).</p>
Required Specimen Type(s)	Lavender top EDTA blood specimen in plastic vacutainer tubes
Minimum Volume Required	2 mL
Storage/Transport Conditions	<p>Before testing, processed specimens may be stored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 15 to 30°C for up to 24 hours • At 2 to 8°C for up to 3 days • At – 10 to – 30°C for up to 60 days (preferred) • At – 70°C or colder for up to 60 days <p>Transport frozen on dry ice.</p>
Specimen Labeling	Patient full name, DOB, MRN, date collected
Shipping Instructions and Specimen Handling Requirements	<p>Freshly drawn specimens (whole blood) may be held at 2 to 30°C for up to 6 hours prior to centrifugation. After centrifugation, remove plasma from cells and transfer to polypropylene tube.</p> <p>Ship specimens frozen on dry ice. Specimens should be packaged and labeled in compliance with applicable state and federal regulations covering the transport of clinical specimens and etiologic agents/infectious substances.</p>
Test Methodology	Abbott RealTime HCV; Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction
Turnaround Time	5 business days
Interferences & Limitations	<p>This test assay is not for screening blood, plasma, serum, or tissue donors for HCV, or to be used as a diagnostic test to confirm the presence of HCV infection.</p> <p>Exposure of plasma or serum samples to elevated room temperature for 24 hours or longer should be avoided. Multiple freeze/thaw cycles should be avoided and should not exceed 3 freeze/thaw cycles.</p>
Reference Range	Not Detected